



## **Monthly Report for May 2015**

*Submitted June 3, 2015*

### **Staffing**

#### New Employee

Please welcome Peter Hobbs, the new Director of Reporting Services for the MLDS Center. Pete is taking Jon Enriquez's place as the shared employee with MHEC. Pete comes to us from Carroll Community College where he served as a Director of Information Services for 5 years in the continuing education and training (CET) division. In this role, Pete directed planning for data governance, institutional processes, and data definitions within CET that led to a series of new reporting projects. He also designed several new data reporting systems, dashboards, and a variety of financial reports leveraging his financial services background.

#### Vacancies

The search for an ETL Developer and Database Administrator continues. The jobs were advertised with *Indeed.com*, which resulted in over 49 applications (36 for the DBA and 13 for the ETL). Interviews are still ongoing. Work to fill the vacancy created by the departure of the network administrator is also underway. The hiring freeze exemption was approved by the Department of Budget and Management. Fortunately, MSDE has already advertised and created a list of acceptable candidates for a network administrator position at MSDE. MLDS Center can use the same list of candidates to fill its vacancy, which will be a big time saver.

### **Meetings**

Senior staff provided a briefing for Adam Dubitsky and Mark Newgent, the Governor's Director and Deputy Director of Policy, respectively. The briefing covered the history, development, and governance of the Center, the inter-agency partnerships, the system architecture and security, the data inventory process, and the output provided by the Center. The briefing was also a good opportunity to discuss how the MLDS Center can serve the needs of the Governor and his policy office.

### **System Development**

#### Data Center and Migration

The IT Team has made significant progress in building out the data center and completing tasks for fully transferring from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) data center to the MSDE data center. The tasks include:

- Migration and testing of the Oracle database instances (MDM and ODS) in the new environment;
- Testing of the new firewall rules;
- Installation of the master file transfer server and relocation of files and folders from DPSCS;
- Installation and testing of OBIEE and OWB installation in the new environment at MSDE;
- Testing Virtual Machine and VPN access for researchers;
- Building active directories in order to establish user groups and users;
- Completing installation of all of the Oracle software that was required to be installed under Universal License Agreement;
- Planning for storage upgrade at MSDE/MLDSC data center; and

- Ongoing work on WebCenter migration and integration with the website and installation of SAS on virtual machines for the research team to use.

### Procurements

There are several procurements necessary for the data center, including:

- SSL Certifications, which were completed and implemented;
- Oracle ODI and EDQ (tools used for data transformation and loading), which were evaluated by the team and are now being procured through a purchase order RFP;
- Firewall and switches, which have been completed and will be installed as soon as they are received.

### Audit

MLDS Center has received an initial report from the IT audit performed by the Office of Legislative Audits. Staff has drafted responses to the audit findings and have already taken steps to correct any issues found by the auditors. A meeting with the auditors is scheduled for June 16th.

### DPSCS Sever Outages:

There have been a series of power and system outage issues at DPSCS. Database Servers were not available during the following dates:

- 5/21 to 5/24 – All database servers were down at DPSCS;
- 5/26 - All database servers were down at DPSCS; and
- 5/30 to 6/2 – Intermittent outages resulting in the inaccessibility of a major component of the MLDSC website that links to the Charter School Data Snapshot.

These network outages have caused delays in our data migration plan. The website was down for some time during these outages and some links are still not working. Center staff has not received much support in getting these systems up and working. Staff is identifying and testing all aspects of servers to return to full productivity.

### Website

Staff has worked with the Department of Information Technology to obtain a “Maryland.gov” domain. The new website address will be [www.mldscenter.maryland.gov](http://www.mldscenter.maryland.gov). The previous website address will route to the new site.

### **Data Management**

The Center has loaded K12 Attendance data and is working on loading a variety of K12 assessment data including the Maryland School Assessments and college placement exams. The Center has also been working with MHEC to finalize file layouts to receive Enrollment and Degree data.

As the System now contains data from all three sectors (K12, postsecondary, and workforce) staff are working on the best ways to report and present this cross-sectional data to the public.

### **Research**

#### Grant Proposal

The Research Team is continuing its work on a project proposal to be included in MSDE's application for the 2015 State Longitudinal Data System grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

### Report

The research team has completed and submitted a report on *The Inclusion of Online Education Data in the MLDS Inventory: A Review with Recommendations*. The report was part of the research agenda a required project under MSDE's 2012 SLDS Grant. The report highlights the growth in online education and provides strong justification for the inclusion of data about online education in the MLDS.

### Research Series

The Research Series is on a summer hiatus and will pick back up in September.